GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:505
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME
PRABHA RAU

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Health Ministers and the Health Secretaries of some of the States was held in regard to eradication of polio from the country;

(b) if so, whether the implementation of polio eradication scheme has been delayed in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan etc.;

(c) if so, the concrete steps being taken by the Government to monitor the implementation of this programme;

(d) whether some communities have refused to administer the polio vaccines to their children; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.RAJA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): The implementation of eradication of pulse polio programme is being closely monitored at the apex political and bureaucratic levels both in Government of India and also in the States.

Following measures are being taken:

(i) In order to improve the detection and vaccination of missed children, house-to-house vaccination teams have been strengthened with the addition of a third member preferably a woman from the local community.

(ii) Community mobuilizers have been engaged for improving implementation of the programme in resistant areas.

(iii) House-to-house vaccination of missed children is being done for five days after the booth day as against two days in other parts of the country.

(iv) Additional information, Education and Communication activities are being carried out.

(v) The implementation of the programme is being closely monitored at the apex political and bureaucratic levels both in the Government of India as also in the States

(vi) Local influencers/social and religious leaders are being involved for advocacy and ensuring greater participation of the people in the programme.

(vii) One Surveillance Medical Officer has been posted in each district in order to help the states in ensuring better monitoring and supervision.

(d)&(e): No, Sir. However, local influencers/social and religious leaders are being involved for advocacy and social mobilization for ensuring greater participation of people in the programme.